

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10

SCI-06 OMB-01 AGR-20 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 L-03 SS-20

DRC-01 H-03 /158 W

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R 200610Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7123

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 5250

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, NP, UN

SUBJECT: VISIT OF INCB TEAM

REF: KATHMANDU 5227

1. DURING BRIEF THREE-DAY VISIT TO NEPAL, INCB CHAIRMAN GREENFIELD AND SECRETARY DITTERT MET WITH MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FINANCE AND HEALTH AND WITH SECRETARIES IN MINISTRIES OF LAW, HOME AFFAIRS, AGRICULTURE AND FINANCE. THEY LEFT NEPAL DECEMBER 19 CONVINCED THAT GON WAS SERIOUS IN ITS INTENTION TO PROCEED WITH NARCOTICS CONTROL LEGISLATION AND TO ENFORCE EXISTING CONTROLS.

2. UNLIKE THE EARLIER UN/FAO TEAM (REFTEL), THEY DID NOT FEEL THAT ECONOMIC DISLOCATION RESULTING FROM SUPPRESSION OF GANJA CULTIVATION IN TERAJ WAS MAJOR PROBLEM. GON OFFICIALS WITH WHOM THEY TALKED SEEMED MORE CONCERNED ABOUT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN THE HILL AREAS WHERE HARVESTING AND SALE OF WILD GANJA REPRESENTED IMPORTANT SOURCE OF CASH INCOME.

3. FROM POINT OF VIEW OF NARCOTICS CONTROL, THEY FELT THAT PRINCIPAL PROBLEM FACING NEPALESE IN AREA OF HASHISH CONCEN-

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TRATES, SUCH AS HASHISH OIL WHICH THEY HAD BEEN TOLD WAS BEING

PRODUCED IN INCREASING QUANTITIES IN KATHMANDU. (THIS INFORMATION WAS CONFIRMED TO DCM IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION BY INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR INTELLIGENCE THAPA, WHO SAID THAT SEVERAL SMALL "FACTORIES" HAD BEEN SET UP AND THAT POLICE WOULD BE MOVING AGAINST THEM IN DUE COURSE.)

4. WITH RESPECT TO ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION INCB TEAM RECEIVED SOME INDICATION THAT THERE MIGHT BE DELAY IN PASSAGE OF CONTROL LAW UNTIL SUMMER SESSION OF NATIONAL PANCHAYAT. THEY DID NOT REGARD THIS AS CERTAIN, BUT OFFICIALS HAD MENTIONED TO THEM ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS SHORTNESS OF FEBRUARY SESSION AND CROWDED AGENDA WHICH MIGHT MAKE ENACTMENT OF NARCOTICS LEGISLATION DIFFICULT IN THAT SESSION. COMMENTING ON THIS POSSIBILITY TO DCM, GREENFIELD SAID THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT GON WAS COMMITTED TO LEGISLATION AND WOULD ENACT IT. HOWEVER, CONSIDERABLE PATIENCE AND QUIET ENCOURAGEMENT WOULD BE REQUIRED ON PART OF NEPAL'S FRIENDS TO KEEP GON MOVING IN RIGHT DIRECTION.

5. COMMENT: VISIT OF SENIOR INCB OFFICIALS HAS BEEN EXTREMELY USEFUL IN REINFORCING EARLIER EFFORTS WHICH WE AND UN HAVE MADE TO CONVINCE NEPALESE OF IMPORTANCE OF EFFECTIVE DRUG CONTROL LEGISLATION. GON IS IN NO DOUBT AS TO INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT. WHILE IT WOULD BE A SERIOUS MISTAKE IN OUR VIEW FOR GON TO DELAY FURTHER ON ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION, WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT POSSIBILITY EXISTS AND THAT CONTINUING EFFORTS WILL BE REQUIRED ON OUR PART TO KEEP GON MOVING TO FULFILLMENT OF BASIC COMMITMENT WHICH IT HAS MADE ON THIS POINT.

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